

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR,GE,GW

SUBJECT: HONECKER ON FRG/GDR RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY. SED PARTY CHIEF HONECKER SEIZED UPON CONFERENCE OF SED DISTRICT LEADERSHIP IN EAST BERLIN FEBRUARY 10, A) TO WARN AGAINST EFFORTS OF "IMPERIALIST CIRCLES" TO DISRUPT DETENTE AND FORCE A RETURN TO COLD WAR, AND B) TO ACCUSE BONN OF GROSS VIOLATIONS OF GDR/FRG GENERAL RELATIONS TREATY AND QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT ON BERLIN. END SUMMARY.

2. HAWKING FAMILIAR EAST GERMAN JARGON RE SOVIET PEACE INITIATIVES AND GROWING STRENGTH OF SOCIALIST COMMUNITY, HONECKER LASHED OUT AT WESTERN "IMPERIALISTS", ESPECIALLY THOSE IN FRG, WHO ALLEGEDLY HOPE TO CAMOUFLAGE THROUGH RETURN TO COLD WAR NOT ONLY THEIR INABILITY TO COPE WITH DETENTE BUT ALSO THEIR GROWING ECONOMIC CRISES. HONECKER MAINTAINED THAT RECORD FRG DEFENSE BUDGET WAS PROOF THAT, EVEN UNDER SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, FRG REMAINS INTENT ON "WRINGING THE NECK OF CIVIC DEMOCRACY."

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3. PREDICTABLY, HONECKER RESERVED PARTICULARLY CAUSTIC COMMENT FOR FRG BEHAVIOR VIS-A-VIS GDR, BRANDING AS "INFAMOUS LIES" CONTENTIONS OF WEST GERMAN MEDIA THAT GDR RELUCTANT TO HOLD TO SPIRIT AND LETTER OF GENERAL RELATIONS TREATY. HONECKER CLAIMED THAT, ON CONTRARY, "EVERY DIFFICULTY TO DATE" MAY BE TRACED TO FRG EFFORTS TO CHANGE "AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT INTO AN INNER-GERMAN GRIST-MILL". TAKING SPECIAL AIM AT CONTROVERSY OVER FEDERAL ENVIRONMENT OFFICE, HONECKER SAID THAT SUCH EFFORTS ON PART OF FRG TO TREAT "WEST BERLIN AS A FEDERAL LAND" WAS IN CLEAR CONTRAVENTION OF QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. INSTEAD, ACCORDING TO HONECKER, FRG WAS OBLIGED BY PROVISIONS OF QA TO ASSURE THAT FEDERAL PRESENCE BE "REDUCED" (ABGEBAUT) RATHER THAN INCREASED.

4. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH HONECKER'S CONDEMNATION OF FRG LARGELY REHASH OF KNOWN GDR POSITIONS, HE SEEMS TO HAVE PULLED HIS PUNCHES ON WEST BERLIN, STEERING CLEAR OF ANY THREATS OF RETALIATION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE. CURRENT TACTIC APPEARS TO BE DESIGNED TO TAG BONN AS MAJOR OBSTRUCTIONIST OF DETENTE, WITH FRG'S BERLIN-RELATED MOVES PORTRAYED AS ONLY PART OF ITS BROADER POLICE. IN PUTTING ONUS OF CURRENT DIFFICULTIES SQUARELY ON BONN, THIS TACTIC MAY ALSO INDICATE GDR CAREFUL NOT TO INTERFERE WITH SOVIET HANDLING OF BERLIN ISSUES WITH ALLIES. KLEIN

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